

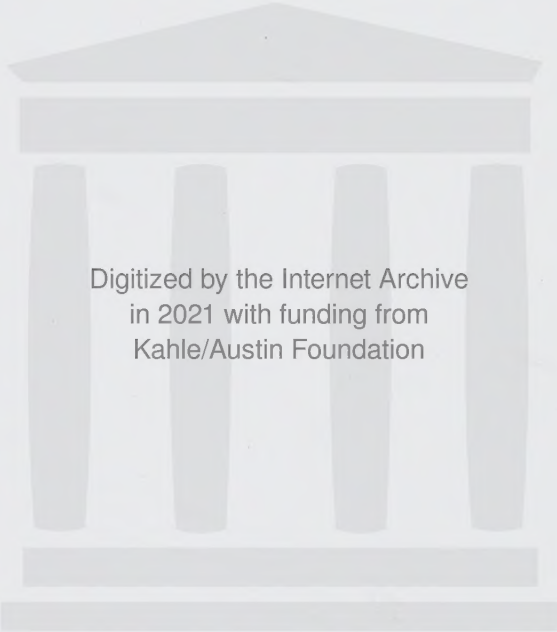
Light Verses....

Just for Laughs

Amusing Four-Liners

RAMONA DEMERY

ILLUSTRATED BY: MARIA ALEJANDRA BIDONDO



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2021 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

Light Verses . . .

**Just
for
Laughs**

Amusing Four-Liners

RAMONA DEMERY

Illustrated by: Maria Alejandra Bidondo

iUniverse, Inc.
Bloomington

Light Verses . . . Just for Laughs

Amusing Four-Liners

Copyright © 2012 by Ramona Demery.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or by any information storage retrieval system without the written permission of the publisher except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

This is a work of fiction. All of the characters, names, incidents, organizations, and dialogue in this novel are either the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

iUniverse books may be ordered through booksellers or by contacting:

iUniverse

1663 Liberty Drive

Bloomington, IN 47403

www.iuniverse.com

1-800-Authors (1-800-288-4677)

Because of the dynamic nature of the Internet, any web addresses or links contained in this book may have changed since publication and may no longer be valid. The views expressed in this work are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, and the publisher hereby disclaims any responsibility for them.

Any people depicted in stock imagery provided by Thinkstock are models, and such images are being used for illustrative purposes only.

Certain stock imagery © Thinkstock.

ISBN: 978-1-4759-3585-1 (sc)

ISBN: 978-1-4759-3586-8 (ebk)

Printed in the United States of America

iUniverse rev. date: 07/12/2012

TRUE LOVE

Where I stand in my son's
Affections
Is easy to see.
When he leaves for school
He first kisses
The dog and then me.

SELF IMPROVEMENT

Since taking classes every night
in history, French, and art, and
more;
I am so interesting and bright
That my old friends are quite a
bore.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

"I hate to say 'I told you so,'
Is heard from some who oft
employ it.
I think they hate it not at all,
But rather quite enjoy it.



True Love

NON-SHINING EXAMPLE

(. . . . cost estimates for the missile-
firing submarine Trident were
censored out of the public transcript . . .
News Item.)

Next year I'll be much richer,
I'll have some cash to burn.
I'll print "This sum is censored"
Across my tax return.

EAT, DRINK, AND BE SORRY

Sometimes I live things up,
Like a happy, heedless clown
But then comes the bitter cup
Of having to live them down

DENTIFRICE DESTINY

Some are roll the bottom kind,
And some are squeeze-the-middle kind
Why is it every former kind
Gets married to a latter kind?

SCENIC CINDER

Soon the ending will be the same
For every travelogue:
“We bid farewell as the setting sun
Sinks slowly in the smog.”

SEASONAL SIGH

I don't have the same bright sparkle,
The same energy or pizzazz,
But as I think of it every summer,
Who has?

POINT OF VIEW

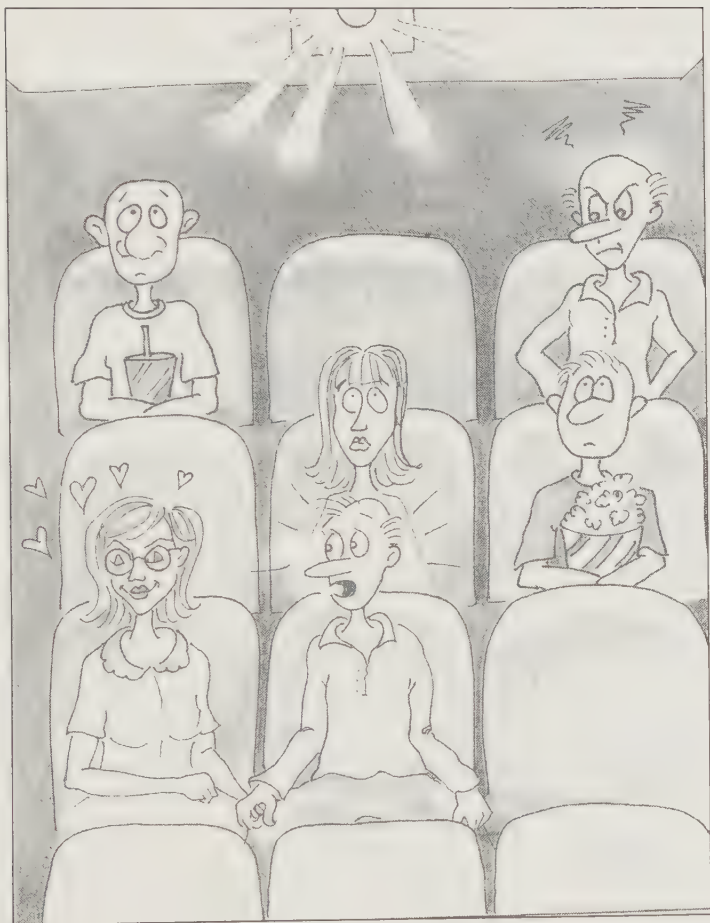
I know an acupuncturist
Who's getting rich, though it's funny,
He says, while going to the bank,
“It's only a little pin money.”

HANDWORK

My spouse holds my hand in the movie
My heart unbelievably melts,
Then the truth of it dawns on my fully,
I've sat next to somebody else.

LITTLE LEAGUE

My heart is pumping, all aflutter.
My hopes are high, then in the gutter.
My palms are starting to perspire.
My face is burning like a fire.
My sight is getting weak and blurry
My mind is filled with anxious worry.
The world will know soon what's the matter.
The time has come . . . my son is batter.



Handwork

UNEXPECTED VISITOR

After I scrub and clean and dust,
Why do I feel that still I must
Say to a caller, with sheepish grin,
“My house looks a mess, but please come in?”

WASTE NOT, WEEP NOT

I never used to cry,
I belonged to a stronger ilk;
But prices are so high
I now cry over spilt milk.

RAPID RECOVERY

Our auto starts with an angry bang
And coughs while someone revives it,
Continues on with roaring clang
Until our mechanic drives it.

THINK SMALL

(A group of professional hypnotists is pushing wider use of hypnotism on patients by doctors and dentists . . . News Item.)

Is there a chance the doctors would use
This power with too much ease,
And make us smile in a trance and say,
“You’re charging me very small fees?”

MATTER OF OPINION

When a person of no small dominion
Begins by saying, “In my humble opinion,”
I think he thinks his opinion’s all right.
In fact, superior, and exceptionally bright.

BEWARE OF THE DOG

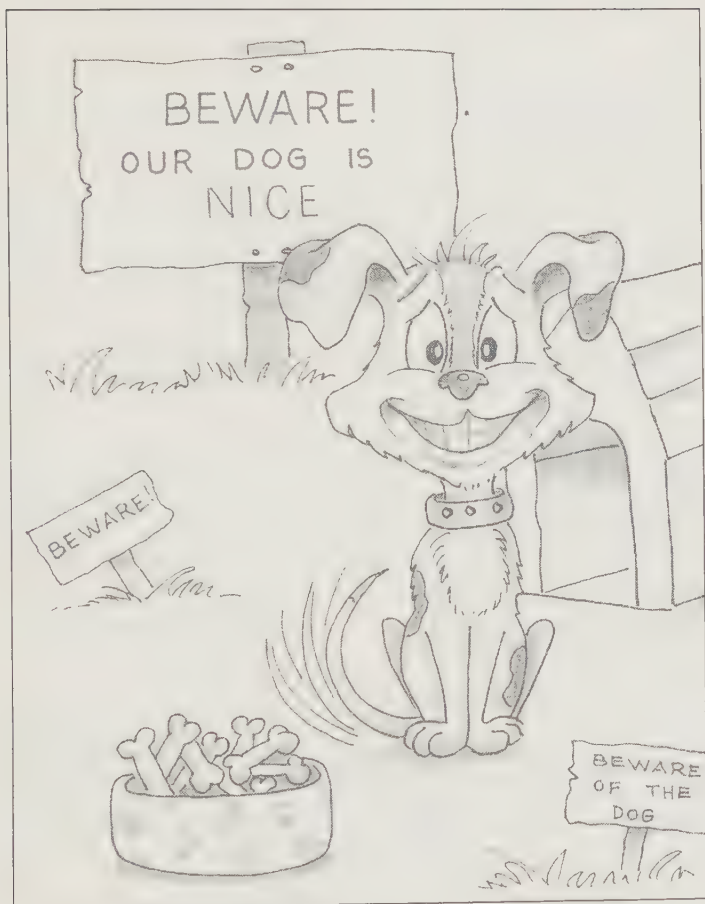
While going on my morning jogs,
I notice signs about
mean dogs.
I wish I'd see, just once or twice,
a sign that reads,
'Our dog is nice'.

THE MERITS OF METRIC MEASURE

I think this system would be great
in dealing with my overweight,
For saying "twenty kilos" sounds
Much thinner than "two hundred pounds."

PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE

With the latest bombs and weapons new
Man has used his ingenuity.
But I fear that all he'll succeed to do
is stop his continuity.



Beware of the Dog

PERPETUAL REST

I spend a lot of time there.
Is it where I'll meet my doom?
Of course, I sadly speak of
The doctor's waiting room.

SHORT WORKDAY

*(2.5 hours of each day required to pay
taxes . . . News Item.)*

I'm going to quit work early,
Go home and start relaxing,
For I find those last two hours
To be extremely taxing.

MATCHED SET

As my husband and I grow older,
Our love grows stronger, not colder,
For the mirror says what we don't discuss . . .
No one else on earth would have either of us.

IMPROVEMENT

My past has been filled with so many mistakes,
My life must appear to be lawless,
But if practice makes perfect, I await the results:
My mistakes will soon become flawless.

NO EPIDEMIC

When I say that my spirits are high.
I'm healthy and vigorous and sound,
Why don't I hear the reply,
"They say that it's going around.?"

PRIME MOVERS

Whoever said that we keep young
By living with youth is outrageous,
For how can our children keep us young
When so rapidly they age us?

EMOTIONAL ECONOMY

(Witch doctors and psychiatrists perform essentially the same functions in their respective cultures . . . News Item)

Since their functions are parallel

Does it matter which a person sees?

Except there may be (who can tell?)

Quite a difference in their fees.

SMALL VOICE

We hear that money talks.

A fact that should delight us,

But it buys so little now,

It must have laryngitis.

SIGHT PLIGHT

“Men seldom make passes

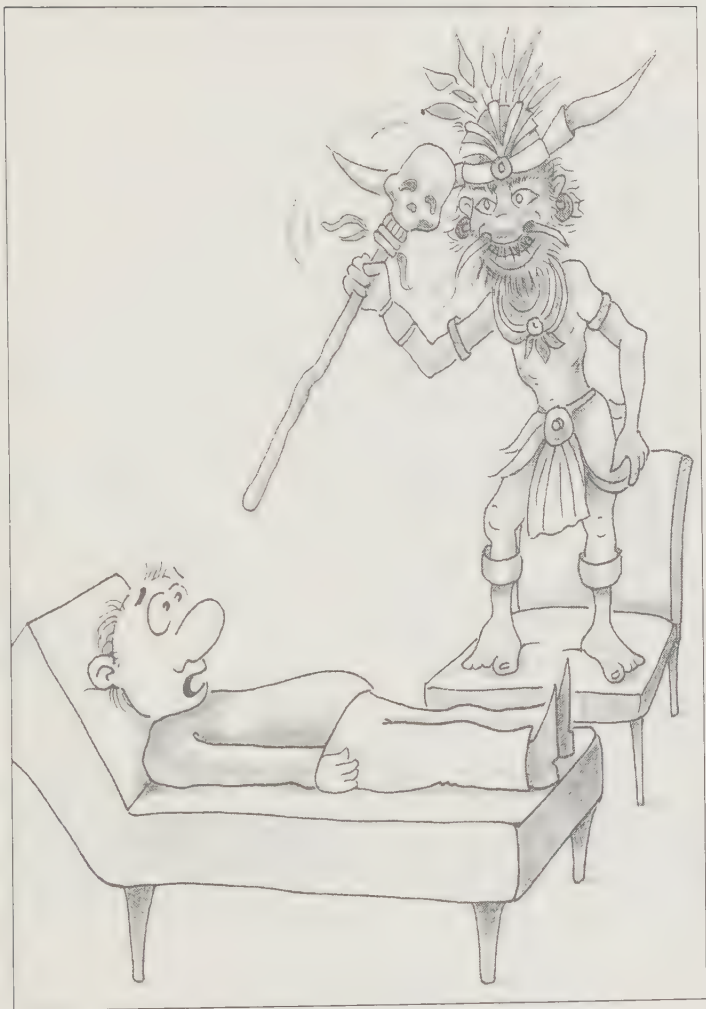
At girls who wear glasses”

Is fine, for I’ve never been flirty.

What gets me, alas, is,

Since wearing new glasses,

My house has become much more dirty.



Emotional Economy

QUESTIONABLE IDENTITY

(Jack the Ripper was a woman, a former top sleuth at Scotland Yard believes . . . News Item)

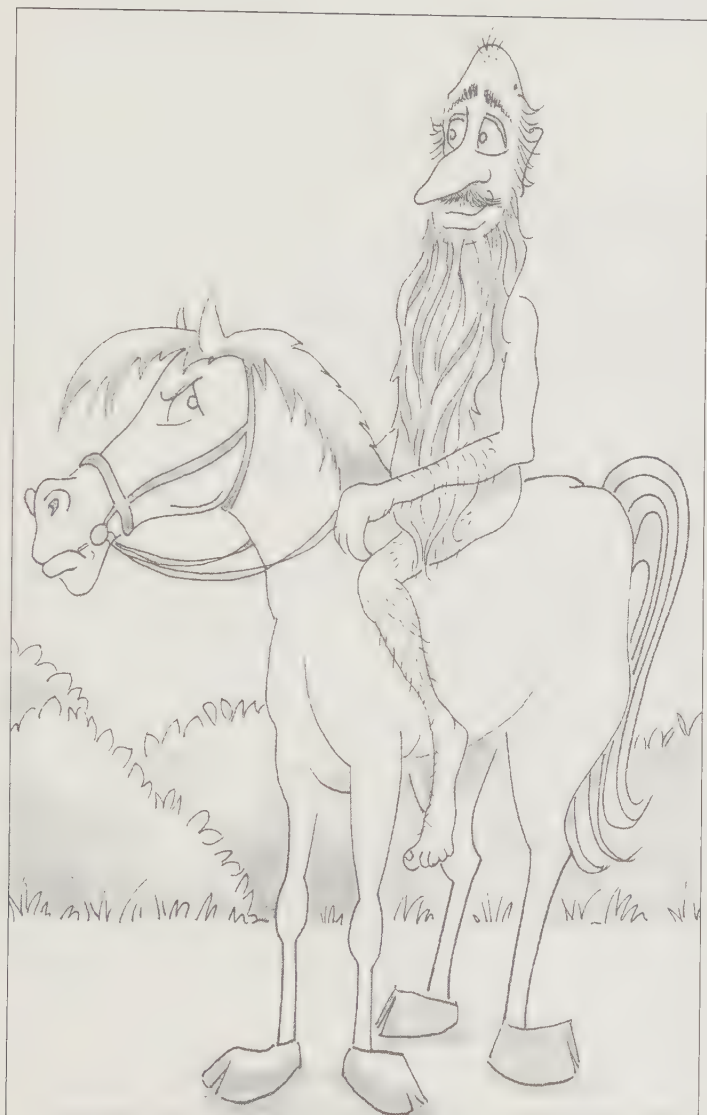
Jack the Ripper, of actions shady,
Could have been, I believe, a lady.
Now they'll convince me, if they can,
That Lady Godiva was a man.

BILL OF RIGHTS

When my phone bill comes each month
It seems a major breach
Of the right I thought I had
To exercise free speech.

DIGITAL CLOCKS

It's a sign of the times
I greatly abhor,
We don't even tell time
By hand anymore.



Questionable Identity

REAL RAPPORT

Our neighbor's very thoughtful,
Though his wits are somewhat dim;
He keeps an empty pool
For friends who cannot swim.

BRIGHT SIDE OF INFLATION

If I didn't buy something today
I've saved a lot more
Than if I hadn't bought it
A few days before.

THE TENDER TRAP

There's a fact of life to which
We might as well acquiesce;
The accent may be on youth,
But the parents get the stress.

TIRING TASK

Washing windows is not much fun
As back and forth I constantly run
To clean just one more smudge or spot
That was left on the other side . . .
I thought.

POOR PLOT

Some folks seem rather wary
To look in a dictionary;
And think they're being groovy
By waiting 'til it's a movie.

UTOPIA

Last night I had a dream that
in a wonderful land I dwelled,
Where paychecks had tax added
And bills had it withheld.

FULL CIRCLE

When only a baby just newly arrived.
On good warm milk I happily thrived.
I then found what's best for easing my troubles.
Was colorful drinks all fuzzy with bubbles.
When these failed to satisfy my thirst any
longer,
I searched and found something a little bit
stronger.
And now after the years have swiftly unraveled
And fully the gamut of drinks I have traveled.
What will help me to sleep, the doctors have
said,
A little warm milk before going to bed.

REAL REASON

Men like to grow heavy beards
For kicks, they say between grins,
But it's probably because they hide
A multitude of chins.

METRIC MAXIM

To gauge some greedy people
There's one true barometer:
Just give a centimeter,
And they'll take a kilometer.



Full Circle

QUENCHABLE QUEST

It's knowledge that people thirst after
Or money, or comfortable ruts;
But what they mostly thirst after
is salted nuts.

SAD NEWS

My saddest discovery
Is the full recognition
That the key to success
Doesn't fit my ignition.

DELAYED DISCOVERY

If everything is coming my way,
It soon becomes plain
That it's really not my big day.
I'm just in the wrong lane.

THE ROOT OF EVIL

The love of money . . .
I'm above it.
It's my creditors
Who seem to love it.

TIMELY THOUGHT

Some of peoples' inventions
Give me an emotional block,
For how can it be the same
With a grandfather digital clock?

AUTO ANTICIPATION

A fact of statistics
That does not fail:
When a child turns 16
Two adults turn pale.

POLLUTION SOLUTION

*(The nation's cows burp 50 million tons of
hydro-carbons into the air each year . . .*

News Item)

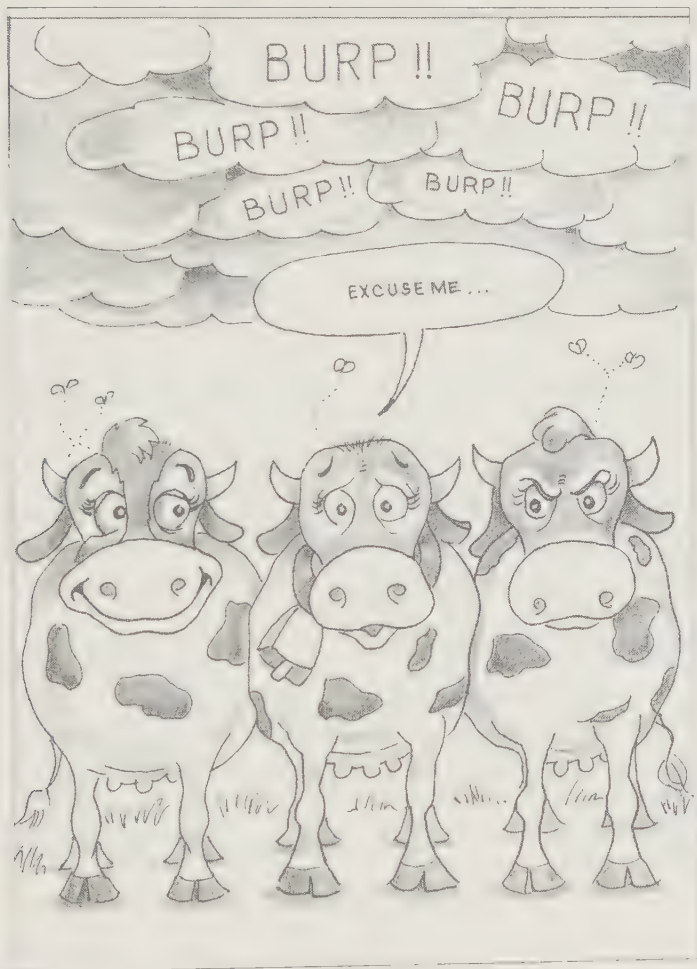
We've blamed the factory furnace stoker
The driver of cars and cigarette smoker;
But the search is ended, for we know now
That the real culprit is the ill-mannered cow.

SIMPLE SIMILITUDE

Computers are almost human.
To that I'll take a drink.
The reason is because
They do everything but think.

\$2 BILL

Let's all stand up
And give a holler;
At least there's a bill
That's worth a dollar.



Pollution Solution

ACCUMULATION

If I can continue to save
At the rate I've presently set,
I'll be, when I want to retire,
A million dollars in debt.

FEARLESS FEATS

My husband's big game hunting trips
Should be in all the annals.
They consist of Sunday afternoons
Spent in changing channels.

SWEET SORROW

Money talks,
And it makes me cry,
For all it says
is good-bye.

WANTING WIT

Those cards about growing older,
So funny and full of cheer,
Seem to get less funny
Every year.

MUFFLED TONES

My still small voice of conscience
Is really quite sad,
For it's down inside me where
The acoustics are bad.

FLORAL FACT

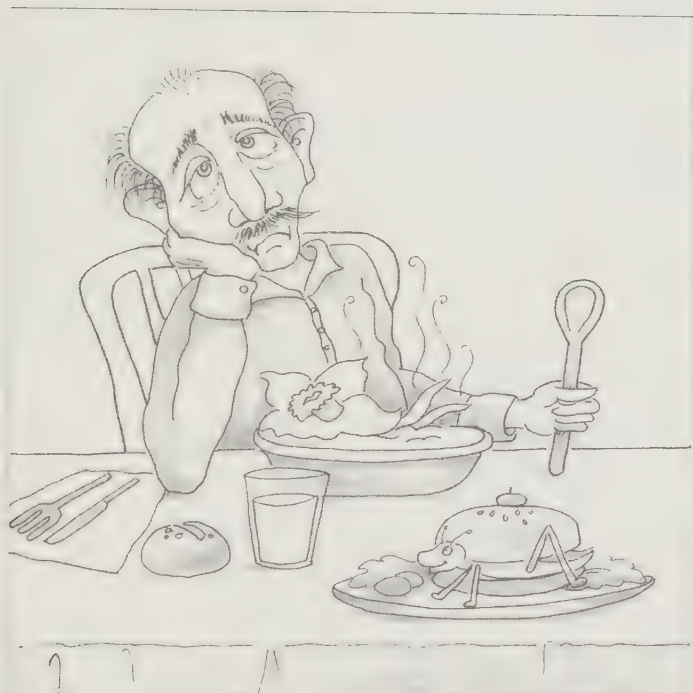
The eagle's our national bird,
As almost everyone knows,
And our national flower is
The cost-of-living rose.

SAME OLD THINGS

If I did a marvelous job
Preparing a shish-kabob,
Or fried some first-rate whoppers
Of juicy brown grasshoppers,
Or boiled a daffodil,
I'll bet my husband still
Would say, I have a hunch,
"That's what I had for lunch."

GOURMET COOK

My recipe for stew
Is something to shout about.
I've only to mention it,
And my husband takes me out.



Same Old Things

PARENTAL THERMOMETER

When bundled children come out to play;
Looking as though they feel foolish,
You know it's their mother, not they,
Who felt a little bit coolish.

TIMELY TIP

Oh, youth, preparing for life,
Seeking a good occupation,
Consider where the big money is,
And go into inflation.

AFFLUENCE

We bought a second car,
Which makes our spirits soar . . .
The second car we've owned
Since our marriage in sixty-four.



Parental Thermometer

SAD FACT

Late to bed
And early to rise
Makes a man baggy
Under his eyes.

INAPT ALIBI

When you miss a doctor's appointment
You need an excuse that'll stick.
Bear in mind that it'll never do
To say that you were sick.

WEATHER FORECAST

Sometimes I feel so happy,
I could run and dance.
I even feel like singing
In the 20 percent chance.

DEFERRED PAYMENT

I don't pay the electrician
If he hasn't fixed the light.
I don't pay the airline
If it hasn't booked my flight.
I don't pay the repairman
If he hasn't fixed the TV.
Then why do I pay the doctor
If he hasn't fixed me?

INFLATION

Today there's no nickel cigar,
But I'm not going to holler.
I think I'll cry instead,
For we have a nickel dollar.

HEAVENLY LEGISLATION

Stopping forced retirement
Is an idea I find engaging;
And what I hope will come next
Is voluntary aging.

DISPLACED PERSON

Consider the plight of the housewife,
Too sick to perk,
Who hasn't a place in which
To stay home from work.

STRANGE FACT

There's no demand for inflation,
Just lots of complainers and squealers.
Yet, still there remain great numbers
Of participating dealers.

VACATIONER'S DREAM

I want a book
That'll show me the way
To stay at home
On \$10 a day.



Displaced Person

IDEAL ITINERARY

My next vacation time,
When I get the yen to roam,
I'll spend in a place sublime,
Unspoiled by tourists . . . home.

CHANGE

The small toy car is now large
and fancy and chromed.
The skinny stick horse is pedigreed
fast and well-combed.
The stubby boat is ponderous, with
galley and bed.
The battered cap gun is now heavy,
and shoots real lead.
As I look at this world, I question
It's joys.
The playthings have grown,
But have the boys?

OLD TUNE

I've joined the ranks of old-timers
Who moan, both loud and long,
Wishing they'd bought "that land"
When it sold for only a song.

DEADLY DEVICE

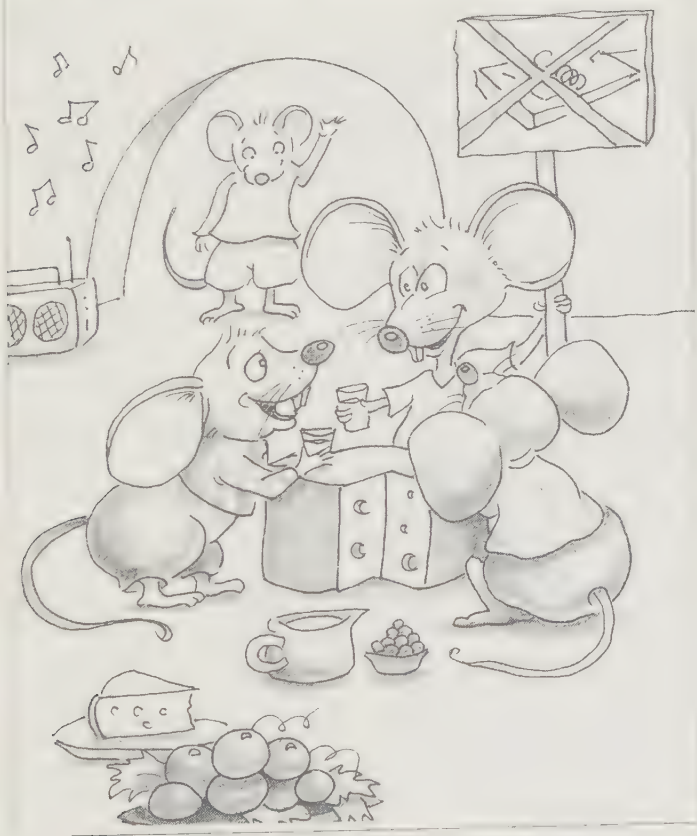
My better mouse trap failed,
Though also of lower price.
It was banned by the FDA
For causing death in mice.

STRANGE MIND

A man can remember old ball scores and dates
When discussions become controversial.
But his memory quite quickly depreciates
When it comes to the dates anniversial.

OUT OF ORDER

If I'd known before it was done,
I'd have the order reversed;
For grandchildren are so much fun,
I should have had them first.



Deadly Device

TRASH COMPACTOR

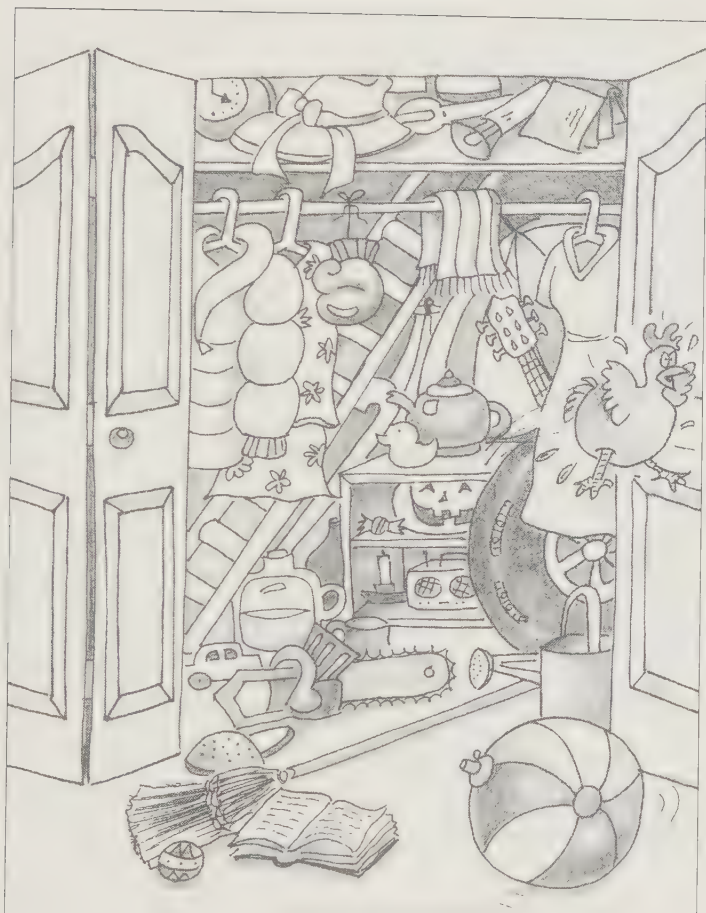
It's just the device
For a trashy deposit;
We've had one for years . . .
We call it a closet.

STRANGE TONGUE

Music's a form of language
Understood by all, it's true.
So why do I need a translator
For the music my kids listen to?

REMARKABLE RETENTION

I wish that I could retain,
Though a Herculean feat,
As much of what I read
As I do of what I eat.



Trash Compactor

RARE GIFT

My husband gave me a mink,
Which left me all agog,
But if I could choose again,
I think I'd take a dog.

TAMPERING WITH TIME

Youngsters wish to look older,
And oldsters at aging demur.
I wonder at what moment we wanted
To look just the age we were.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

To err is human,
But these days we're astuter.
We really foul up
By using a computer.



Rare Gift

WEIGHTY WORDS

I've talked a lot about diets
The experts have proposed,
But the real way to lose
Is to keep the mouth closed.

INFLATION INDICATION

Inflation, I fear, is here to stay.
I can tell it's getting much worse.
For I carry my cash in the grocery cart,
And take the food home in my purse.

PREFERRED PASTIME

If you asked my favorite sport,
Loafing is what I'd choose;
It takes so little practice,
And requires no special shoes.



Weighty Words

MY CROWNING GLORY

I wash and comb and set,
And blow and fluff and fret.
I do everything in the book
To achieve that natural look.

SHAKY RESOLVE

When offered treats
I never budge;
Except with sweets
I sometimes fudge.

UNREPEATABLE PERFORMANCE

Conduct yourself
With great discretion.
There's no second chance
For a good first impression.



My Crowning Glory



26746993R00034

Made in the USA
San Bernardino, CA
04 December 2015

THESE VERSES WILL ALLOW US TO LEAVE, FOR A FEW MOMENTS, OUR WORLD OF CONFLICT AND CHAOS AND ENTER INTO A REALM OF RIDICULOUS WRY WIT, AND FUN.

THEY ARE CERTAIN TO ELICIT SOME SMILES, A FEW CHUCKLES, AND MAYBE A BELLY LAUGH OR TWO.

SOME OF THEM WERE PUBLISHED, YEARS AGO, ON THE POSTSCRIPTS PAGE OF THE SATURDAY EVENING POST; SOME OF THEM IN THE PEPPER AND SALT SECTION OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; AND SOME OF THEM, INCLUDING A CONTEST WINNING LIMERICK, IN ARIZONA, THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC; AND ONE IN MCCALL'S.

THE AUTHOR HAS ALSO PUBLISHED MORE SERIOUS VERSES IN THE ENSIGN AND THE FRIEND, RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS, AND A BOOK OF LIMERICKS, LET THERE BE LIMERICKS, A LIGHT LOOK AT THE BIBLE.

THE AUTHOR RECEIVED A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE FROM THE RICE INSTITUTE, NOW CALLED RICE UNIVERSITY, IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. SHE HAS TAUGHT LATIN AND FRENCH IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA; WAS A NEWSPAPER REPORTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA; A LIBRARY WORKER IN MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA; AND A HEALTH CLERK IN LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA.

SHE AND HER HUSBAND, A FORMER CIVIL ENGINEER, ARE RETIRED AND LIVE IN UTAH. THEY ARE PARENTS OF TWO CHILDREN.

U.S. \$8.95

ISBN 978-1-4759-3515-5



9 781475 935851

 iUniverse®

www.iuniverse.com

R1-DBL-934